

# Benefits of Historic Resource Surveys and Local Designation



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**Office of Historic Preservation**  
OHP Placerville Workshop  
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# Overview

- Survey of historic resources is a valuable tool in the planning process
- Landmark designation is an important planning tool
- Both are necessary parts of a local preservation program

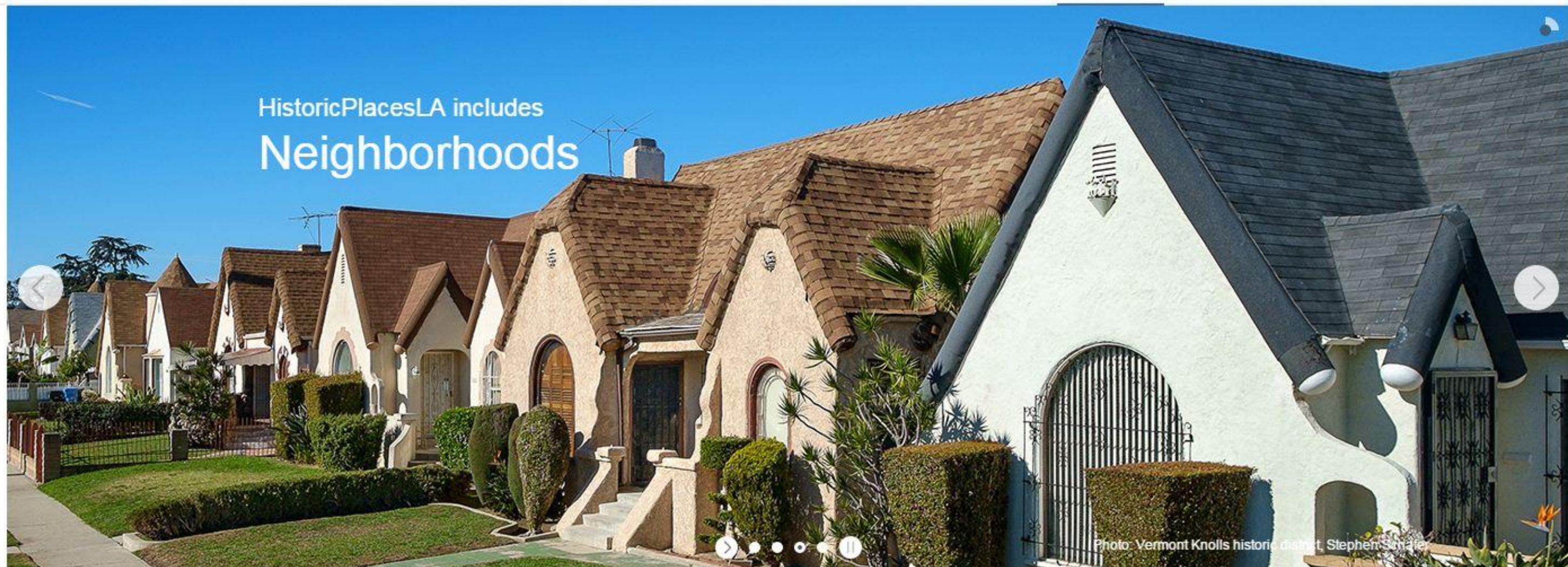


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## HistoricPlacesLA

HistoricPlacesLA is the first online information and management system specifically created to inventory, map and help protect the City of Los Angeles' significant historic resources. It showcases the city's diversity of historic resources, including architecturally significant buildings and places of social importance, as well as historic districts, bridges, parks, and streetscapes.

# Historic Resource Surveys: What are they?

- Means by which we identify and document historic resources and evaluate their significance
- Survey is both a *process* and a *product*



# What is a historic resource?

Districts, Buildings, Sites, Structures or Objects which:

- Exemplify a period of history
- Association with significant historical events
- Association with the lives of persons significant in our past
- Embodying a particular style, type or method of construction; possess high artistic values
- Yield or potential to yield information important to history or prehistory.

# Steps for completing a survey

- Research and Planning
  - Investigating the historical background of the survey area
  - Gathering information on specific properties
  - Persons identified with these properties
  - Historic uses and events connected to them
- Develop a historic context
  - Broad pattern of historical development in a community or region that may be represented by historic resources
  - Most influential factor in defining the structure of a survey effort.

# Steps for completing a survey (cont'd)

- Identification of historic resource
- Evaluation using established significance criteria



# Steps for completing a survey (cont'd)

## Neighborhood Commercial Buildings (Phase I) Historic Resource Survey Report



Overview

Methodology

Corner Building Individual Evaluations

Commercial Corridor "Windshield" Narrative Summaries

San Francisco Planning Department

Draft Submitted to the Office of Historic Preservation on September 30, 2014\*



SAN FRANCISCO  
PLANNING  
DEPARTMENT

\*NOT FOR PUBLIC REVIEW: Final determinations pending review and approval by the Survey Advisors Group

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## Shattuck Avenue

Commercial Corridor Historic Context and Survey



Prepared for:

City of Berkeley  
Department of Planning and Development  
City of Berkeley  
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Attn: Sally Zarnowitz, Principal Planner  
Secretary to the Landmarks Preservation Commission

05.28.2015 FINAL DRAFT



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# What can you do with a survey?

- Acknowledges that these resources have value to ourselves and future generations
- Identification of historic resources helps determine which of those resources should be preserved
- Facilitates environmental reviews (CEQA and other land-use decisions)
  - Complete historic context and reconnaissance surveys in areas that may be prone to development
  - Surveys sort out potentially historic versus non-historic properties within the extensive survey area; and

# What can you do with a survey? (cont'd)

- Establish a framework that planning staff can use to determine the eligibility of properties and to determine whether properties may require additional study in compliance with the recommended review procedures listed in the survey



# Maintain Survey Records (cont'd)

- Maintain an accurate database of surveyed properties and designated resources
- Recommend that survey information be updated or at least field checked every 5 years.



*City of Sacramento*



## **SACRAMENTO REGISTER OF HISTORIC & CULTURAL RESOURCES**

**Landmarks, Historic Districts and Contributing Resources**  
designated by the City Council

**Special Planning District Historic Resources**  
adopted by the City Council for Protection

**NATIONAL REGISTER  
OF HISTORIC PLACES**  
City of Sacramento Listings

**CALIFORNIA REGISTER  
OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES**  
City of Sacramento Listings

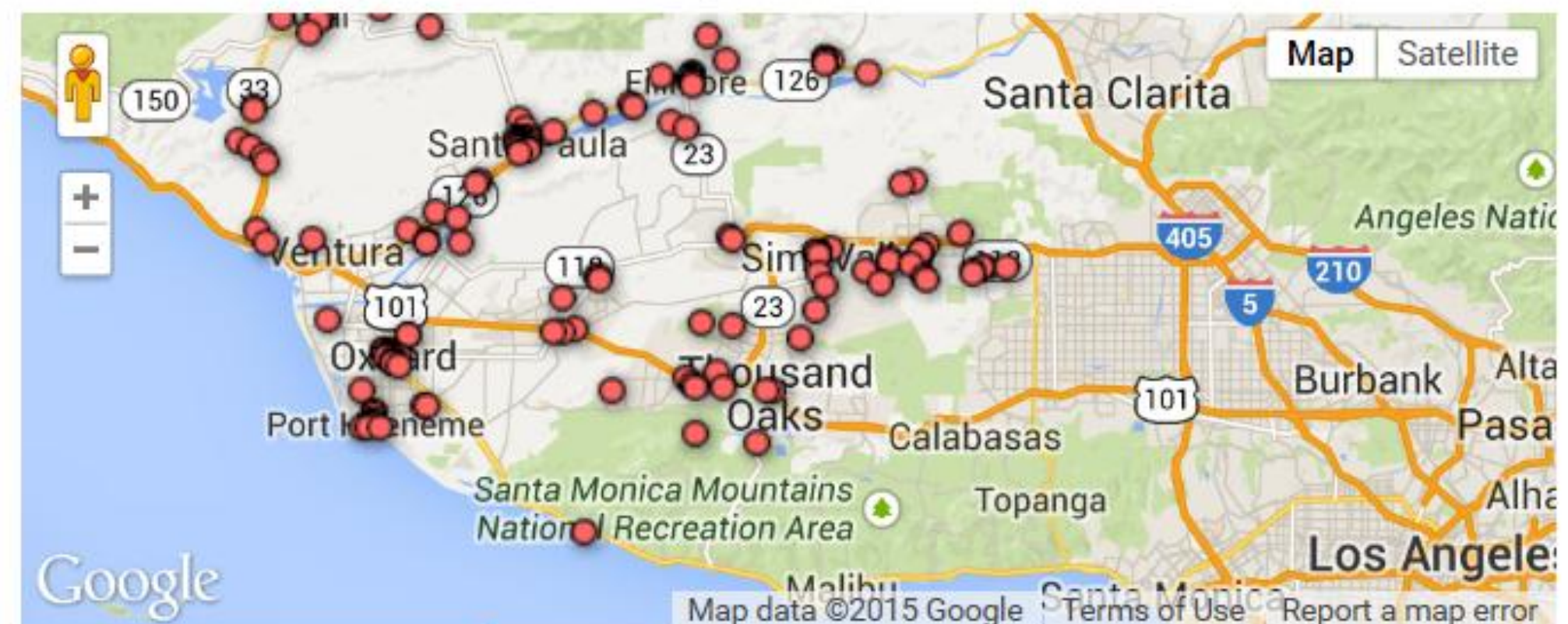
**State of California  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES DIRECTORY**  
City of Sacramento Listings

*Updated February 2007*

## Cultural Heritage Board

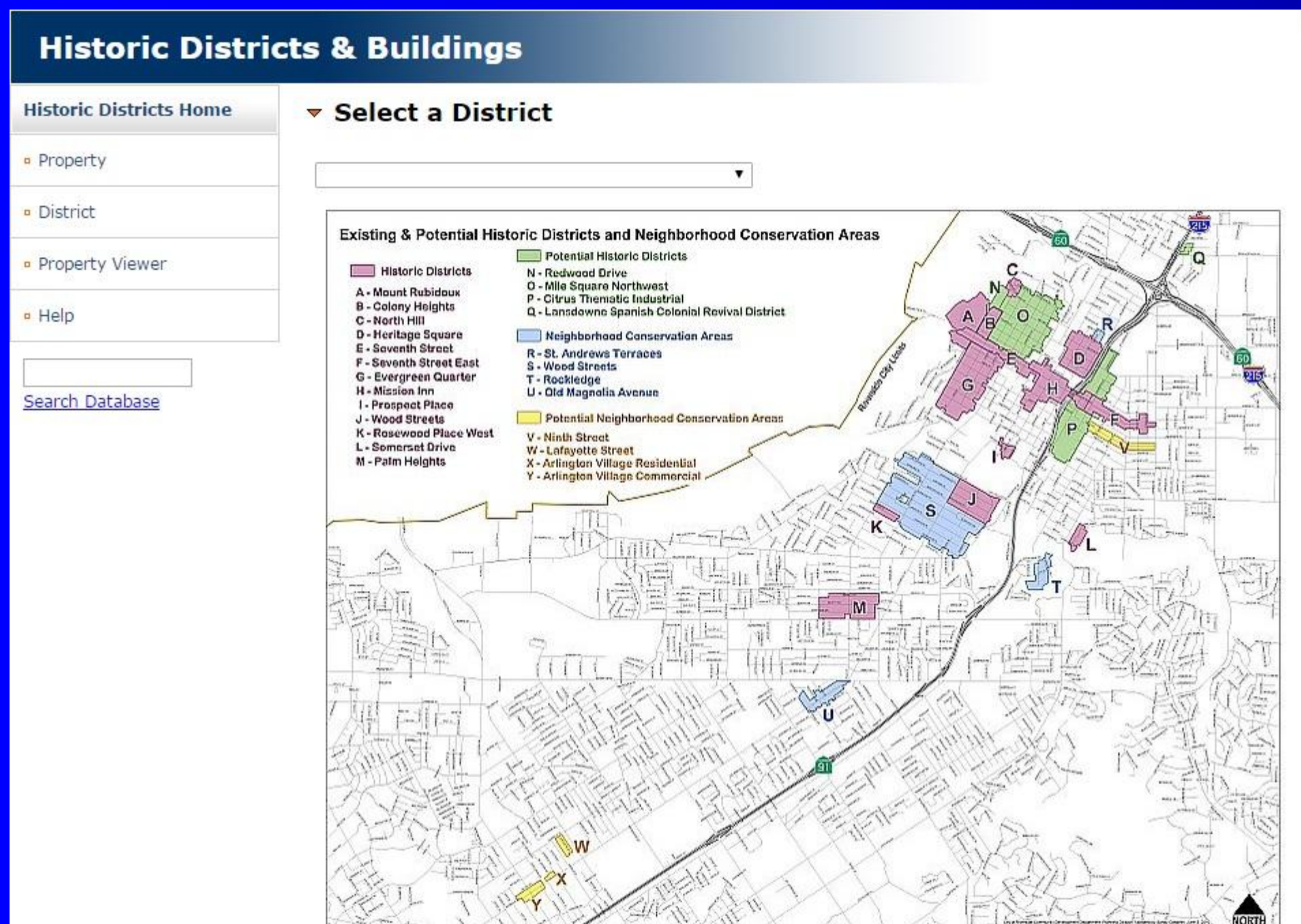
Protecting Ventura County's Historic, Cultural, and Natural Resources

### Ventura County Landmark Map



# Maintain Survey Records (cont'd)

- Allow public to view data by incorporating survey information into their GIS system
- Public can search and query by property type, address/location, architectural style, architect, and date of construction



# Landmark designation

- Three levels of designation:
  - Federal Programs: National Register of Historic Places
  - State Programs: California Register of Historical Resources, California Historical Landmark, California Point of Historical Interest
  - Local Landmark programs: ?????
- Each local government defines their own landmark criteria.
  - Define what is significant to the community
  - Lays out the procedures for locally designating a property
  - Establish a process for appeals

# Landmark designation (cont'd)

- Nomination to the:
  - National Register of Historic Places
  - California Register of Historical Resources
  - California Historical Landmark
  - California Point of Historical Interest

**DOES NOT** place any requirements on the property owners.

# Why establish a Local Landmark program?

- Landmark designation helps stabilize property values and may lead to an increased valuation of property in the future. The designation of property also enhances the jurisdiction's attraction to visitors and is a stimulus to the economy.
- Environmental – Preservation, protection and adaptive reuse of historic and cultural resources are “green” strategies.
- Cultural - Designation of a property preserves cultural assets and strengthens the ethnic and social character of a neighborhood.

# Questions?

